



Nina DiGaetano

March 8, 1935 - October 15, 2025

DiGaetano, Nina – March 8, 1935 to October 15, 2025

Nina DiGaetano passed away peacefully on October 15, 2025 at the age of 90. A loving and devoted Sister and Aunt, Nina dearly loved her family and was happiest when spending time with them.

Born on March 8, 1935 to the late Leonardo and Francesca DiGaetano in Detroit, Michigan, Nina was the youngest of three girls. She lived in the Detroit area all her life. After graduating from Denby High School, Nina continued her education at Macomb County Community College, earning an Associate's Degree. A lifelong learner, Nina continued to take classes through the Lifelong Learning program at Macomb Community College well into her 70's.

Nina never married but instead chose to focus her energies on her sisters and five nephews. She loved to tell the story about when she taught her nephews how to play Monopoly and how, by that afternoon, she wasn't allowed to play anymore because she was "too slow" moving her piece around the board. She was so proud of her nephews, not only for learning Monopoly from her so quickly, but for all their achievements. Nina was their biggest cheerleader.

An avid reader, in 1990 Nina co-founded a book club comprised of members from two other organizations she belonged to: the Red Hat Society, and the Creative Clothing sewing group. The book club focused on biographies and autobiographies of notable women.

Always independent, Nina was pleased with the life she created for herself. She worked from the time she was 18 and retired in 1997 from Marsh &

McLennan in downtown Detroit. She bought her own townhouse and then condo and supported herself her entire adult life. After retirement, Nina took a creative writing course and found her voice as a storyteller, crafting more than 20 short stories that told the story of her own life with humor, honesty and heart.

Nina loved to sew and made many of her own clothes in her younger years. In later years, at the encouragement of fellow Creative Clothing sewing group members, Nina decided to make fleece blankets for her numerous great-nieces and nephews; the blankets reflected each one's interests, from school colors to favorite colors, to favorite sports teams and more. The blankets were admired by friends and family members of the recipients, and they started asking her to make them a blanket. By the time she put her needle down, she had sewn over 50 fleece blankets.

She cherished Christmas and nothing made Nina happier than providing roast beef for her family at their Christmas Eve celebration. One year, she brought Christmas Carol songbooks, and the family made memories singing Christmas songs together, with one very special and hilarious "12 Days of Christmas" reenactment by her two nephews Paul and Len.

Nina is survived by her nephews Paul (Jane) Recchia, Leonard (Mary) Quagliotto, Robert (Cristina) Recchia, Raymond (Kathy) Recchia and John (Betty) Quagliotto. She was predeceased by her parents Leonardo and Francesca DiGaetano, and her sisters Catherine (Katie) (Silvio) Quagliotto and Jennie (Paul) Recchia. Nina will be missed by 14 great-nieces and nephews, and 15 great-great nieces and nephews.

Nina's family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Pomeroy Living Rochester Nursing. Their kindness, attention, and dedication made a profound difference in Ninas life and will always be remembered with appreciation.

Additionally, thank you to the wonderful team at Accent Hospice care (especially Corey), whose compassionate care brought comfort to Nina in her final days.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations the Clinton-

Macomb Public Library at https://www.cmpl.org/get_involved/donate_or_contribute/index.php.

Visitation Wednesday October 29th from 3-8pm at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile Rd). Funeral Thursday October 30th at Grace Episcopal Church 115 South Main St Mt, Clemens from 10am until the funeral service at 11am. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Service

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church
115 S. Main Street
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ I was just thinking about Nina! I was her nurse at Pomeroy for two years. She was a joy to be around! I will miss her jokes, our snack time (she loved the oatmeal crème cookies), and that laugh! My prayers and condolences go out to her family. You are greatly missed!

Shawnie Jones - November 26, 2025 at 03:08 AM

CD

“ As a neighbor and friend for 35 years, Nina welcomed me and shared her love of books, sewing and Maurice Salads. She was always proud of her family and a devoted aunt, sister and caregiver to her loved ones. Her advice during trying times has resonated profoundly in my life - "Remember this - They are doing the best they can - with what they know from the era they were raised". Thank you Nina for everything especially your incredible decades of devoted friendship. You made a pivotal difference in my life.

Christine Doerner-McCary - October 30, 2025 at 04:45 PM

SH

“ We spent many holiday meals with Nina and her sister Jenny for many years. The sisters will again be united. Rest in peace dear Nina.

Shelly Habian - October 27, 2025 at 04:33 PM